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OCI No. 1655/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
8 May 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic  
(Report #191 - Summary of Situation  
from 9:00 am EDT - 1:00 pm EDT)

1. The US Embassy in Santo Domingo reports that with the swearing in of the Government of National Reconstruction (GNR) the political initiative has been taken away from the rebels. Rebel "Radio Santo Domingo" has already attacked the new government bitterly, and can be expected to continue its attacks. The principal target will probably be Antonio Imbert, head of the GNR. Imbert is called "killer" by some for allegedly being responsible for various deaths during the Trujillo era. Nevertheless, he is officially a national "hero" for his part in the Trujillo assassination.

2. The new government is completely inexperienced and will need US help and guidance. Ambassador Bennett comments, however, that it offers the best hope available for seeing the country through the difficult days ahead. If the government can function, time will no longer be on the rebel's side.

3. The embassy has received several reports indicating that the rebels may be attempting to sneak men out of their enclave into the provinces to stir up the countryside. Rebel President Caamano has already named new governors for all the provinces, thus pointing out that the GNR will have to move rapidly to consolidate its control over the municipal and provincial governments.

4. Downtown Santo Domingo remains a serious problem. Although some businesses have reopened in Caamano territory, the Spanish Ambassador announced yesterday that he was removing Spanish priests and nuns from the area because he was doubtful of their safety.

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5. At the swearing in of the Government of National Reconstruction last night, Antonio Imbert, head of the government, listed the six points of the government's program. They were:

- a. to procure the peace;
- b. to bring about a reconciliation of contending forces with the help of the Organization of American States (OAS) Commission;
- c. to secure "national unity";
- d. to comply with all the international obligations contracted by the Dominican Republic, to pledge total cooperation with the OAS, and to request the cooperation of the OAS in the maintenance of order, including the retention of the OAS forces as long as necessary;
- e. to rededicate the country to the ideals of the Alliance for Progress, human rights, social justice, and economic progress and to pledge the government to free elections with "full OAS cooperation;"
- f. to seek economic assistance from international agencies and from "friendly democratic countries" of the continent.

Imbert went on to request that all public employees return to their jobs next Monday and that on that day the government would prepare to initiate the payment of wages for government employees. (The US Embassy has stated several times that this last item would be extremely conducive to stabilizing the situation.)

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7. During a trip begun on 6 May to the northwestern town of Monte Cristi, a US government team reported that in Villa Sinda, a small town in the central Cibao valley, the police stated that there was no unusual activity, and no civil disturbances. In Villa Vasquez, just to the north, the local police chief said that he had no problems. In Monte Cristi itself, the provincial governor Garcia Bonnelly said that there was a sizable leftist minority in the town, but that there had been no rebel activity. The governor did note that there was a substantial number of Fourteenth of June Political Group (APCJ) members in Monte Cristi. According to the governor, about 80 percent of Monte Cristi province was peasant and so far "not contaminated" by Communism. He added, however, that this could change unless the economic situation improved. He considered the food situation to be "critical", and added that it was the most important factor affecting stability. A police officer in the province agreed that hunger, not ideology, would explain any Communist success there. The officer said that there was no rebel activity in the area to his knowledge, but added that he needed more troops for patrol duty and that his communications were "deplorable."

8. The team also visited the area east from the northern town of Puerto Plata to Sabaneta, on the bordering province. The team reported that there were no indications of any rebel sentiment in that area. It reported that the food supply throughout the province of Puerto Plata was still adequate but prices were generally rising. On 7 May the coastal area west of Puerto Plata to Luperon was visited. The area was reported as being normal, and there were no indications that there was rebel sentiment. Throughout the province of Puerto Plata there were no indications of any potential trouble spots. We will report further observations by this team as we receive them.

9. The US Ambassador in Santo Domingo was informed this morning by the Panamanian member of the Organization of American States Commission, who is the only member of the Commission remaining in Santo Domingo, that he wants to return to Washington today. The US Ambassador considers it of the "utmost importance" that the Commission in Santo Domingo not be left without at least one of its titular members.

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10. In a broadcast at 8:45 am EDT, rebel "Radio Santo Domingo" said that General Antonio Imbert unfortunately has become a puppet of the anticonstitutional movement. The station comments that "the treacherous effort of those who are struggling uselessly against the constitutionalists and the democratic movement of the Dominican people will not succeed." The rebel station says that Imbert does not have and never will have the support of the people. According to the station, when the people go to work on 10 May, they will do so for the rebel government and that "they will do so to show their support for Caamano's government which represents the people's will as expressed in the 1962 elections."

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